TV Channel for educational Purposes

*163. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start a new channel only for educational purposes to popularise distance education;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to allot a channel to some private agency for this purpose; and

(c) if so, what conditions the private agency would be required to fulfil for starting the channel for educational purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Government are considering the question of devoting a channel exclusively for education. Details are being worked out.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, I am happy that the Government is considering establishing a channel separately for education. Sir, thanks to the liberalisation policy, we have more than 32 to 35 channels, but there is not a single channel exclusively for education except the two-hour UGC programmes. Though Doordarshan has got three channels, so far we have not thought of an exclusive education channel. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister (a) by when the exclusive education channel will be established and (b) whether any private efforts have been made to ask for any transponder or a separate channel for educational purposes.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member is right that education, particularly in the inaccessible areas in the country, will have to be imparted through our electronic media. The Government is very well aware of it. In this connection, the Government of India has been contemplating measures to be taken for making available greater opportunities, particularly in the inaccessible areas with a view to enlarging the coverage of educational programmes through open learning, distance education and communication technologies. Therefore, there has been a Study Group appointed by the Human Resource Development Minister, making the Education Secretary its Chairman. In the first meeting of the Study Group, they have, in turn, appointed a Sub-Group, detailing the scope and the resources and in what way they would have to take it up, covering the entire country. The Sub-Group has already sat twice and the recommendations of the Sub-Group would be forwarded to the main Study Group. After the receipt of the recommendations the Study Group will deliberate, and when it comes to the Government, the Government will ponder over it and appropriate action at that time will be taken.

With regard to the second part of his question, as far as entrusting a channel to private agencies for imparting education through TV channels is concerned, at present we do not have any proposal to allocate it to any private agency in this sector.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: My second supplementary, Sir, is that the hon. Minister has said that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up a separate committee and it is looking into its various aspects. This will be a time-consuming effort. I would like to know whether 50% of the present channel 3 which the Doordarshan has established can be earmarked for the purpose of education. Sir, distance education has become an important segment of educational facilities. I would like to know whether a part of this channel could be allotted to various agencies or universities which are imparting distance education. There are a number of universities which have taken up distance education. I would like to know if it is impossible for the Doordarshan to have a separate channel, whether the Doordarshan can provide the facility of leasing such timings to various universities which are imparting distance education.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, this Working Group consists of 13 experts. The Secretary, Department of Education, is heading it. I can read them out. Such an expert team has been entrusted with the matter. It has, in turn, with particular terms of reference, formed another study group which has already met twice and held deliberations. We expect that an expeditious recommendation would be forwarded to the main group after which it will deliberate and send its recommendations to the Government and the Government will take a serious note of them. Meanwhile, as regards his suggestion, I don't think that we will be in a position to ponder over it because this committee's recommendation is going to be a vital issue to cover the entire country. With regard to the private agencies, I have already mentiond that at present we are not thinking on that line.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आजकल दूरदर्शन से जिस प्रकार का प्रदर्शन हो रहा है, उससे शिक्षा तो नहीं बल्कि कुशिक्षा को बढ़ावा मिल रहा है। महोदय, आजकल अश्लीलता का भद्दा प्रदर्शन दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से होता है, इससे लोगों के चरित्र पर और विशेषकर नौजवानों के चरित्र पर असर पड़ता है। महोदय, मेरा छोटा सा प्रश्न यह है कि जो टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस की आप चर्चा कर रहे हैं, उस टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस में क्या इस चीज को जोड़ने पर आप विचार करेंगे कि जिस प्रकार से दूरदर्शन द्वारा अश्लीलता और कामुकता को बढ़ाने वाले प्रदर्शन होते हैं, ऐसे प्रसार भविष्य में न किए जाएं? क्या इसको भी आप टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस में जोड़ने की कृपा करेंगे?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the main committee has been given the terms of reference. For the benefit of the House I am reading them out: To make estimates of funds required for operating a separate channel; to decide and put into position the administrative set-up for running such a channel; to identify availability of funds with the Department or in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry; to have detailed interaction with the Ministry of I & B to identify use of Doordarshan's language channel to run literacy programmes; to identify a transponder and to reserve space on it for a broadcasting channel from December, 1995 onwards; to identify and gear up all software producing agencies to be in readiness for launch of a 24-hour channel from 31st December, 1995 and to complete all other necessary formalities required for launching this channel. Currently, everywhere in the country, in the print media, in social organisations and in the legislatures, this matter of cultural erosion is coming up. This discussion is going on throughout the country. Therefore, we hope such a committee, while deliberating and forming its recommendations, will take due note of it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted a new channel for educational purposes to popularise distance education in the country. Sir, now the educational programmes up to 12th class come in the early morning between 6.00 A.M. and 7.00 A.M. and in the afternoon between 12.30 P.M. and 1.30 P.M. Sir, this programme is shown in the early morning when children are asleep. Then in the afternoon when children go for lunch this programme is shown. Sir, it is of no use for the children of this country. The prime time is being used by the national channel only for entertainment programmes. They have started an intellectual channel on DD-3. Sir, except any intellectual information, all other things are being shown on that channel. This is the state of affairs of the Doordarshan in this country. In our country more than 22 to 25 per cent of the total budget is spent on education by the Central Government and the State Governments. A regular channel for educational programmes which can give scientific and general information and knowledge to children is of vital importance for this country which is a backward country. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should give priority to such a channel. Therefore, the Minister should agree for this particular channel which can be used not only for

distance education but also for regular education through schools and colleges. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister on the floor of this House.

Sir, there is a complaint from industrialists and small manufacturers of this country that multinational companies are coming here and using the prime time for advertisements. Therefore, the small manufacturers and industrialists are suffering. A lot of mishandling is taking place. I would like the hon. Minister to see to it that protection is given to small industrialists and small manufacturers so that they can use the prime time instead of it being ruled by multinational companies by dumping money for advertisements.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I am partially in agreement with my hon. friend, Shri V. Narayanasamy. At the moment, telecast of educational programmes is done in some of the Doordarshan Kendras, especially in Delhi, Madras, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad. That is why I said I am partially in agreement with him. In Delhi the timings on DD-1 are 9.30 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. He said that the timings are from 6 o'clock onwards. That is not correct. Then in the afternoon it is from 1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. In Madras it is 10.15 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. and in Mumbai it is 10 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. and from 12.15 p.m. to 1 p.m. In Bhubaneswar it is 10.15 a.m. to 11 a.m. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: That is the time when they go to school. *(Interruptions).* It means you don't want them to go to school.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Of course, we will have to periodically assess what the best time is and how best it can be utilised. We will have to do that. Sir, this question relates to new channel for educational purposes, but Mr. Narayanasamy has taken me to industrialists and others. I will have a discussion with him. In whatever way industrialists can be helped, they will be helped. I will have a sitting in a day or so. I will see to it that injustice is not done to them.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he has not replied to my question regarding intellectual channel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is answering.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I don't claim myself to be an intellectual. Therefore, I am not in a position to say anything at the moment. If this channel can be used in an optimal way, we will definitely look into it.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुरः सभापति महोदय, आज नीति बदल रही है और वर्गीज कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के बाद बिल भी तैयार था कि मीडिया को स्वतंत्र कर दिया जाए। इस पृष्ठभूमि में मैं जो कह रहा हूं, आप उसको समझ लें। मैं चैनल की बात ही नहीं पूछ रहा हूं। मैं यह पूछ रहा हूं कि क्या शिक्षा के लिए आप विश्वविद्यालयों को, यूनिवर्सिटीज को अपने टी०वी० सेंटर्स चलाने की परमीशन देने पर विचार करेंगे? अगर नहीं करेंगे तो क्यों? मैं चैनल की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं। छोटे ट्रांसमीटर्स लगाकर यूनिवर्सिटीज स्वयं अपने टी०वी० स्टेशन अपने लिमिटेड क्षेत्र में चलाएं, जिसकी जिम्मेदारी उनकी ओर जिसकी ओनरशिप उनकी हो, क्या यह भी इस कमेटी के समाने प्रश्न रखा है आपने या केवल दूरदर्शन के चैनल की ही बात की है?

श्री पी० एम० सईदः आदरणीय सभापति जी, माथुर साहब हमारी कंसलटेटिव कमेटी के सदस्य भी हैं। उनको मालूम है कि...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुरः कंसलटेटिव कमेटी की बातें यहां नहीं की जातीं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीयः वे बता रहे हैं कि आप कंसलटेटिव कमेटी के सदस्य हैं।

श्री पी० एम० सईदः उनके जो सुझाव हैं, उनका जो ओपिनियन है, उनके जो सजेशंस हैं, उनका हम हमेशा आदर करते हैं। ये जानते हैं कि ऑटोनॉमस बॉडी के बारे में जो इन्होंने सवाल उठाया है, यह इससे सम्बद्ध नहीं है। ऑटोनॉमस बॉडी नहीं है, आपको भी मालूम है। इसलिए ऑटोनॉमस बॉडी के बारे में अगली सरकार जो आऐगी वह विचार करेगी...(**व्यवधान**) शिक्षा के लिए अलहदा कोई सैट-अप कर रहे हैं, यही सवाल पूछा है ना आपने?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: मैंने ऑटोनॉमस बॉडी का बैकग्राउंड बताया था, उसके बारे में नहीं कहा था। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि विश्वविद्यालय या यूनिवर्सिटीज स्वयं अपने टी०वी० सेंटर्स शिक्षा के लिए चलाएं, जिनकी ओनरशिप भी उनकी हो।

उनकी ओनरशिप हो, उनका पैसा लगे, सारी जिम्मेदारी उनकी हो, क्या यह प्रश्न आपने कमेटी के सामने रखा है?

श्री पी० एम० सईद: सभापति महोदय, मैंने अभी-अभी पढ़कर सुनाया यह टर्म्स ऑफ रेफरेंस जो इस कमेटी ने बनाई है। इस कमेटी को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने कांस्टीट्यूट किया है और उसके सेक्रेटरी इस कमेटी के चेयरमैन हैं। मैंने पढ़कर सुनाया है कि किस हद तक क्या-क्या अरेंजमेंट कर सकते हैं। अगर विश्वविद्यालय या शिक्षा विभाग के लिए अलहदा करना बेहतर है तो कमेटी की सिफारिश आने तक हम इंतजार कर सकते हैं।

Liberalisation and Globalisation of Economy

*164. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will The Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the broad objectives envisaged by Government for introduction of liberalisation and globalisation of economy;

(b) how far these objectives have been fulfilled;

(c) in what manner and to what extent the poor strata of our society has been benefited;

(d) whether any estimates of the employment opportunities generated exclusively for this strata of society have been made;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any advantages to the tiny/SSI/medium industrial sector has occured;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The fundamental objective of the Government, economic reforms which are often described as including liberalisation and globalisation of the economy is to bring about rapid and sustained improvement in the quality of life of the people of India and eradication of poverty. Central to this goal is the rapid growth in incomes and productive employment.

These goals as already mentioned in the Economy Survey 1995-96, have been pursued by the promotion of broad based employment generating growth, enhanced plan outlays for poverty alleviation and social sectors such as health and education, and the building of social safety nets to cushion the possible adverse effets of reforms on vulnerable sections during the stage of transition.

The refroms undertaken over the last four and a half years have led to a revival of strong economic growth, rapid extansion of productive employment, a reduction of poverty, a substantial boom in exports and marked decline in inflation. The full dimensions of the recovery produced by the far reaching reforms initiated in 1991-92 are now becoming clear. Growth of real GDP at factor cost, which had falled to a mere 0.8 per cent in the crisis year of 1991-92, recovered within a year to reach 5.1 per cent in 1992-93. This represents one of the fastest economic recoveries from macroeconomic crisis. Fiscal and macroeconomic policies helped in maintaining a growth rate of 5 per cent in 1993-94, despite the disturbing events of late 1992-93. Overall economic growth accelerated significantly in 1994-95 to attain 6.3 per cent and is projected to record a similar high growth of 6.2 per cent in 1995-96.